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Tributes to

Abraham Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources providing testimonials lauding the 16th President of the United States

Compilations

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FROM: O. H. Oldroyd, WORDS OF LINCOLN (1895)
M-1172

TRIBUTES.

CHIEFTAIN, farewell! The nation mourns thee. Mothers shall teach thy name to their lisping children. The youth of our land shall emulate thy virtues. Statesmen shall study thy record, and learn lessons of wisdom. Mute though thy lips be, yet they still speak. Hushed is thy voice, but its echoes of liberty are ringing through the world, and the sons of bondage listen with joy.

MATTHEW SIMPSON.

Four years ago, oh, Illinois, we took him from your midst, an untried man from among the people. Behold, we return him a mighty conqueror. Not thine, but the nation's; not ours, but the world's! Give him place, ye prairies! In the midst of this great continent his dust shall rest, a sacred treasure to myriads who shall pilgrim to that shrine, to kindle anew their zeal and patriotism.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

The grave that receives the remains of Lincoln receives the costly sacrifice to the Union; the monument which will rise over his body will bear witness to the Union; his enduring memory will assist during countless ages to bind the States together, and to incite to the love of our one undivided, indivisible country.

GEORGE BANCROFT.

Abraham Lincoln mastered the problem committed to his hands. He felt that he was acting not merely for a single hour, but for all time. The question for decision was, "Whether this nation, or any other nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all are equal, can long endure."

GEORGE W. BRIGGS.

A man of great ability, pure patriotism, unselfish nature, full of forgiveness to his enemies, bearing malice toward none, he proved to be the man above all others for the struggle through which the nation had to pass to place itself among the greatest in the family of nations. His fame will grow brighter as time passes and his great work is better understood.

U. S. GRANT.

A statesman of the school of sound common sense, and a philanthropist of the most practical type, a patriot without a superior—his monument is a country preserved.

C. S. HARRINGTON.

For many a year, and many an age,
While history on her ample page
The virtues shall enroll
Of that paternal soul!

RICHARD HENRY STODDARD.

He ascended the mount where he could see the fair fields and the smiling vineyards of the promised land. But, like the great leader of Israel, he was not permitted to come to the possession.

SETH SWEETSER.

In his freedom from passion and bitterness; in his acute sense of justice; in his courageous faith in the right, and his inextinguishable hatred of wrong; in warm and heartfelt sympathy and mercy; in his coolness of judgment; in his unquestioned rectitude of intention—in a word, in his ability to lift himself for his country's sake above all mere partisanship, in all the marked traits of his character combined, he has had no parallel since Washington, and while our republic endures he will live with him in the grateful hearts of his grateful countrymen.

SCHUYLER COLFAX.

Now all men begin to see that the plain people, who at last came to love him and to lean upon his wisdom, and trust him absolutely, were altogether right, and that in deed and purpose he was earnestly devoted to the welfare of the whole country, and of all its inhabitants.

R. B. HAYES.

At the moment when the stars of the Union, sparkling and resplendent with the golden fires of liberty, were waving over the subdued walls of Richmond the sepulcher opens, and the strong, the powerful enters it.

SR. REBELLO DA SILVA.

To him belongs the credit of having worked his way up from the humblest position an American freeman can occupy to the highest and most powerful, without losing, in the least, the simplicity and sincerity of nature which endeared him alike to the plantation slave and the metropolitan millionaire.

The most malignant party opposition has never been able to call in question the patriotism of his motives, or tarnish with the breath of suspicion the brightness of his spotless fidelity. Ambition did not warp, power corrupt, nor glory dazzle him.

WARREN H. CUDWORTH.

By his steady, enduring confidence in God, and in the complete ultimate success of the cause of God, which is the cause of humanity, more than in any other way does he now speak to us, and to the nation he loved and served so well.

P. D. GURLEY.

Abraham Lincoln was born, and, until he became President, always lived in a part of the country which, at the period of the Declaration of Independence, was a savage wilderness. Strange but happy Providence, that a voice from that savage wilderness, now fertile in men, was inspired to uphold the pledges and promises of the Declaration! The unity of the republic on the indestructible foundation of liberty and equality was vindicated by the citizen of a community which had no existence when the republic was formed.

A cabin was built in primitive rudeness, and the future President split the rails for the fence to inclose the lot. These rails have become classical in our history, and the name of rail-splitter has been more than the degree of a college. Not that the splitter of rails is especially meritorious, but because the people are proud to trace aspiring talent to humble beginnings, and because they found in this tribute a new opportunity of vindicating the dignity of free labor.

CHARLES SUMNER.

A brighter and yet more tender page of our country's history cannot be written than that which will refer to the words and deeds of Abraham Lincoln during the last month of his life.—*A. G. Thomas.*

As true to humanity as he had always been faithful to his country, his last words were a prayer and benediction for his enemies.—*Robert P. Porter.*

His life and character are substantial things in the world's history, upon which time, after a rigid scrutiny, will pass an irreversible judgment.—*Frederick T. Frelinghuysen.*

His name will ever be in the hearts of the American people, as green, as fresh, and as pleasant as is to the eyes the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.—*Morgan Dix.*

I could wish that fitting words would offer themselves to me to add to the multitude of tributes to the memory of Abraham Lincoln.—*O. W. Holmes.*

I think all must be agreed, that in a trial which, perhaps more than any other, tested the moral quality of the man, he performed his duty with simplicity and strength.—*Benjamin Disraeli.*

The Emancipation Proclamation lifts him to a niche in the temple of fame an arrow's shot higher than any ever held by any living American.—*J. D. Fulton.*

He did not seek to say merely the thing that was for the day's debate, but the thing which would stand the test of time and square itself with eternal justice.—*James G. Blaine.*

Whatever you have of civil order, of civil law, is the free gift of Abraham Lincoln, the tenderness and charities of whom were as inevitable to his nature as light to the sun.—*Stephen A. Hurlbut.*

Anything which tends to bring the honest, true life of so grand a man to the thoughts and hearts of each generation is a worthy work.—*S. J. Kirkwood.*

His fame will grow brighter and grander as it descends the ages, and posterity will regard him as the incarnation of democracy in its pure childhood.—*Henry C. Dening.*

It was a hard life, a busy life, an American life, and a great life, and it rendered service to the country which can hardly be overestimated.—*Roscoe Conkling.*

Mr. Lincoln was lifted by the force of his unrivaled genius from the mass of the people, the immutable basis, the granite of our civilization, to an elevation of solitary grandeur.—*G. de la Matyr.*

He was a thorough American, carrying a calm mind and tender heart, with a firm sense of right, through the stormy period of civil strife.—*Howard Crosby.*

I believe that, under the providence of God, he was, next to Washington, the greatest instrument for the preservation of the Union and the integrity of the country.—*Peter Cooper.*

The peer of the proudest monarch, and in every position the same plain, honest, prudent man—safe in council, wise in action, and pure in purpose.—*John C. New.*

He spoke to all mankind words of patriotism, admonition, and pathos which will continue to sound through the ages as long as the flowers shall bloom or the waters flow.—*Alexander H. Rice.*

He was a good father to his children, and a good president to the people, whom he loved as if they had been his children.—*Charles Godfrey Leland.*

Abraham Lincoln is one of the most commanding figures in history. The world has confirmed and history has recorded it. When he died, it was as a conqueror.—*Samuel Adams Drake.*

A great, a good man has gone, in the fullness of his fame, in the height of his glory, to join the sages and patriots of the Revolutionary days.—*Benj. F. Butler.*

They all knew Mr. Lincoln's characteristic clemency, and that the terms of the peace he was intent on were exceedingly mild.—*Gerrit Smith.*

No man could have endured so much without some recreation, and that humor was to him what a safety valve is to an engine.—*Hannibal Hamlin.*

He had a sterling common sense, a vein of humor, an unselfish patriotism, which secured for him a lasting place in the catalogue of the world's leaders.—*George P. Fisher.*

Had he lived, the long and bitter struggle over reconstruction would never have been initiated, and peace and prosperity would have followed the laying down of arms.—*Wm. F. Smith.*

He stands before us all, as he has stamped himself ineffaceably on the pure silver of the national heart, all fluent and melted in the fervid heat of the fiery war.—*Henry W. Foote.*

More distinctly than any other president since Washington, he irradiated the official pathway at all times and in all places with the conspicuous publicity of Christian ethics.—*Alex. H. Bullock.*

His mind was so vigorous, his comprehension exact and clear, and his judgment so sure, that he easily mastered the intricacies of his profession.—*Thomas Drummond.*

His heart knew no guile, but into its richest, deepest soil, tender love for the liberty of every man that breathes struck deep into its roots.—*Thomas Armitage.*

In the supreme crisis of American history, his faith in the ultimate triumph of popular institutions never failed him. By that faith he saved the nation.—*William C. Morey.*

Studying his grammar by the fire-light of a log cabin when a boy, he addressed the Senate and people from the capital of a great nation.—*James Freeman Clark.*

Never was the title honest so expressive of character. Honest not only in action and word, but also in thought and feeling and purpose. —*Horace Maynard.*

In every position in life, from his humble beginning to the present well-earned elevation, he has more than fulfilled the best hopes of his friends. —*Edward Bates.*

Nothing which can be done to perpetuate his fame, to keep him ever before the coming generations of his countrymen, should be omitted.—*C. F. Burnam.*

He believed that this people were in the especial keeping of Providence, and that it was his duty as President to await the expressed will of God, and then to act.—*George H. Hepworth.*

The elements of his character was a love of freedom and of law, perceptions of the right thing to do and the right time to do it, all regulated by a sober faith in divine Providence.—*A. Cleveland Coxe.*

He could receive counsel from a child and give counsel to a sage. The simple approached him with ease, and the learned approached him with deference.—*Frederick Douglass.*

His elevation to the highest honor within the gift of the people did not alter his feelings or deportment toward his acquaintances, however humble.—*G. S. Hubbard.*

Mr. Lincoln was one of those singular men whom the great unknown power brings upon the scenes of men's actions when momentous events are about to transpire.—*W. B. Franklin.*

His earnest desire seemed to be to end the war speedily without more bloodshed or devastation, and to restore all the men of both sections to their homes.—*W. T. Sherman.*

The dove was returning from the redeemed world with a branch of olive when the hand of the assassin struck down the emancipator of the race of slaves.—*Wm. Wilberforce Newton.*

An ardent patriot, shrewd, with large common sense, far-reaching foresight, firmness and tenacity of purpose, and possessing the largest sympathies.—*W. Strong.*

His memory will shine in ages to come like a fixed star in a cloudless night, on which continents may gaze with admiration.—*P. B. Day.*

Mr. Lincoln was the greatest man this country has produced. He was mortal, and yearned, above all things, for the final approval of mankind.—*Wm. D. Kelley.*

He had a sharp insight that cut through all the rind of sophistries to the core of difficult questions, leaving such light on the stroke that other minds could follow.—*A. L. Stone.*

It pleased him better to pardon than to punish, and to overcome his and the country's enemies by transforming them into friends.—*Samuel J. Nichols.*

We are indebted to him for the consistent example in private and public life, and for some of the noblest sentiments of humanity ever spoken.—*Elias Nason.*

There is not a man on the continent or globe that will or can say that Abraham Lincoln is his enemy, or that he deserved punishment or death for his individual acts.—*N. P. Banks.*

No man could talk to him upon public questions without being struck with the singular lucidity of his mind and the rapidity with which he fastened on the essential point.—*Titian J. Coffin.*

His genius, wisdom, and goodness saved the Union. His great heart liberated the slaves.—*A. A. E. Taylor.*

He was a man of strong attachments, and his nature overflowed with the milk of human kindness.—*Alexander H. Stephens.*

The longing for unity and the return of brethren to a common center and home, had full possession of him.—*Wm. F. Morgan.*

There is little fear of our forgetting—there is little fear of the world's forgetting the name of Abraham Lincoln.—*John McClintock.*

His "firmness in the right, as God gave him to see," was to him faith, courage, patience, and boundless endurance.—*Joshua F. Speed.*

Whatever shall keep green the memory of Abraham Lincoln, let that be done.—*Clinton B. Fisk.*

Abraham Lincoln was a pure and honest man, and possessor of very superior abilities.—*Charles Lanman.*

Along with a gentle, tender, yearning sympathy, he had the firmness of a rock and the courage of a lion.—*Emerson Bennett.*

Few men in the world's history have been privileged to do a work involving so much benefit to mankind.—*Newman Hall.*

He was as true to the right as the needle to the pole, in all storms and on every sea.—*E. B. Webb.*

That death ennobles Lincoln. The South gained nothing by this crime. Long live liberty! Long live the Republic!—*Victor Hugo.*

His name will brighten as it rises out of the conflicts of the war into the serene sky of history.—*J. M. Manning.*

The harvest of moral fruitage from his death will be the garnered legacy of the nation through the ages to come.—*William Hague.*

Coming ages can properly estimate the value of his services to this country and to human freedom in all lands.—*James Marvin.*

His life was one of true patriotism, and his character one of honesty and of the highest type of religious sentiment.—*Alex. Ramsey.*

The ripest and fairest fruit that has fallen from our American tree of civilization is Abraham Lincoln.—*R. B. Anderson.*

I regard him as one of the greatest men of our time. His fame is growing every day.—*Thos. Burk.*

His life, even at the moment it was taken away, was the most important and precious life in our whole land.—*Robert C. Winthrop.*

He had a heart open to all innocent pleasure and purged from the leaven of malice and uncharitableness.—*James E. Murdoch.*

He repelled no one ; he strove to make friends, not for himself so much as for the preservation of the government.—*J. P. Usher.*

The purity of his reputation ennobles every incident of his career, and gives significance to all the events of the past.—*W. D. Howells.*

In my conversations with him, I absorbed the firm conviction that Mr. Lincoln was at heart a Christian.—*Noah Porter.*

Abraham Lincoln was one of those few men at the sight of whom we trust and take courage.—*John Bascom.*

Mr. Lincoln was a genuine product of our democratic institutions and had a living faith in their permanency.—*Henry Wilson.*

Look down as deep as you may into his profound nature, you will see that it is clear as a moteless fountain.—*Gilbert Haven.*

He was simple in life, clear in his views of right and duty, firm in his will long before the flag of war was unfurled.—*David Swing.*

He combined the integrity of Washington with the humanity of Wilberforce.—*George W. Julian.*

He brought to the duties of the presidential office the best qualities of manhood.—*R. B. Ayers.*

Abraham Lincoln's greatness and worth lay in his simple manhood, he was a whole man, human to the core of his heart.—*Robert Collier.*

Lincoln was the ideal President, when the nation most wanted the right man in the right place.—*Henry W. Bellows.*

Abraham Lincoln was the kind of a man Carlyle in his better days taught us to worship as a hero.—*John Stuart Mill.*

The great President affords much that tends to advance all that is good and noble among men.—*John Bright.*

His love of honesty and fair dealings was one of his prominent characteristics; he never stooped to trickery.—*Geo. W. Minier.*

No hand was ever stretched toward liberty that was not grasped and championed and saved by Abraham Lincoln.—*F. W. Gunsaulus.*

There is in the crown of England no diamond whose luster will not pale before the name of Abraham Lincoln.—*Robert Ingersoll.*

President Lincoln excelled all his contemporaries in capacity for delay when action was fraught with peril, in the power of immediate and resolute decision when delays were dangerous.—*George S. Boutwell.*

The pages of the history of his times record the proofs of his courage and wisdom, and of his fidelity to his country and to human liberty.—*M. C. Meigs.*

He was just the man to strike with favor every person who knew toil and privation, for he experienced the severest privations from earliest boyhood to mature manhood.—*Leonard W. Volk.*

He was tested in every way through the great struggle, and his rare virtues will endear him to the American people the more they study his life.—*S. Wells Williams.*

He was a patriot and a wise man. His death was a calamity for the country, but it left his fame without a fault or criticism.—*Chas. A. Dana.*

Courts and kingdoms might be searched in vain for a prince who, by tradition and culture, had attained such wisdom in the government of men as had the son of the backwoods.—*Frederick Smyth.*

Just finishing his great work, just about to reap the harvest of all his toil, just showing how moderate and wise and tender he was going to be, he was cut down by an assassin.—*Chas. P. McIlvaine.*

The unwavering faith in a divine Providence began at his mother's knee, and ran like a thread of gold through all the inner experiences of his life.—*J. G. Holland.*

The greatness of his figure in our history stands so near and towers so high that it cannot be taken in at a glance in this generation.—*Joseph P. Bradley.*

His thoughts were his own; they were fresh and original, and were clothed with a quaintness, a distinctness, a simplicity of style peculiar to himself.—*Charles Henry Hart.*

No one who knew him ever knew another man like him. He stands out from the whole world of his time, isolated and alone.—*Leonard Swett.*

If he had not the refinement of education, nor the artificial polish of society, yet he never repelled a child, nor crimsoned the cheek of a woman, nor wounded the self-respect of man.—*Charles B. Sedgwick.*

He knew how to put a great thought or argument in a few plain and simple words. Many of his sayings are like proverbs, and proverbs, we know, are the practical wisdom of men condensed in a few brief sentences.—*Peter Russell.*

Sprung from no royal line, without one drop of regal blood, unversed entirely in the sophistries, the intrigues, the hollow, heartless etiquette of courts. Uncouth, some said he was, but better be uncouth and honest than polished and a knave.—*William T. Sabine.*

He was with us during all the war; the thought of him, his sagacity, his fidelity, his buoyant hope, has cheered us in seasons of despondency. We felt secure while he was at the helm, and were confident so long as he was not afraid.—*R. H. Neale.*

Humble in his estimate of his own abilities, yet confident of the sincerity and integrity of his aims and principles, he was ready to receive suggestions and advice from every source, and was accessible to the humblest man or woman in the land.—*H. Dunning.*

Loving his country with his whole heart, and yet room enough in that heart for kindness to the humblest fellow-creature, and compassion for every sufferer; but with no room for one vindictive feeling toward his own or even his country's foes.—*George Putman.*

I have not the ability to portray the character or recount the life of Abraham Lincoln. This will be done, and when it is done, the world will assign to Abraham Lincoln no inferior place among the greatest and the best of men.—*W. H. Hornblower.*

His large, generous, honest heart ever beat responsive to the interests of all the inhabitants of the land and indicated the deepest concern in their welfare. Their good was his aim and heart's desire; and their happiness his happiness.—*D. T. Carnahan.*

President Lincoln took up into his long arms, his capacious mind, his great heart, all the jarring elements of factions, all the differences of his friends, all the necessities of his enemies. He was patient with all, forgiving to a fault as a child.—*Hiram P. Crozier.*

He knew his opportunity. He did not take a step till it was time to take it—did not take it to retrace it. He took no backward steps, but from the first moved steadily forward toward the great end, all the while gaining ground and never losing it.—*Isaac E. Carey.*

To integrity of purpose, firmness of will, patience in investigation, unswerving fidelity to trust, and a deep impression of his accountability to the nation and to God, he added a thorough knowledge of the theory and principles of our government, and of men.—*D. Dyer.*

His illustrations, not unfrequently derived from the most humble and familiar source, were selected, not to adorn, but to give point to his speech, and because of their fitness to make his meaning clear to the great mass of men.—*James Cooper.*

His writings themselves are so full, so clear, so rich, so earnest, so reliant upon the nation and upon God, that now that the strife is over, we cannot read them without a thrill of enthusiasm.—*Charles Carroll Everett.*

Our leader saw the promised land, but was never to enter it. The sea, desert, the strifes and seditions, were past, and the land of plenty was before the people. But on Pisgah he died.—*Alonzo H. Quint.*

The door to honorable promotion and unlimited success in every walk of life is left wide open to merit, as well in the lower class as in the higher classes ; and the worthy poor have oftener gained honorable distinction in our country than the rich.—*Thomas Swaim.*

He has a monument more durable than brass in the hearts of the American people. He needs no marble, no emblazoned escutcheon. He lives forever in history, and is henceforth enrolled in the records of mankind among the great martyrs of liberty.—*Dr. Lord.*

Some men of courtly manners and courtly expressions criticised his homely ways and style of language; but the people loved him, trusted him, and his clear, strong, sound utterances carried conviction. —*Gordon Hall.*

The bullet-shot that evening delivered has effectually nailed to the mast of the Ship of State the banner of emancipation, of universal, unconditional, uncompensated, and unrepealable enfranchisement.—*Wm. R. Williams.*

He felt himself swept out into the current of a purpose, as majestic in grandeur as it was celestial in origin ; the sublime purpose of Him to whom nations belong, to care for this Western Republic in the hour of its manifest peril.—*Charles S. Robinson.*

He was happy, too, in the time of his death. It was the sunrise of peace upon the land ; a momentary pang, he knew not whence or what it was, and he was happy in death.—*Wm. Ives Buddington.*

Lincoln was a man both of words and deeds ; his latter words are so interwoven with and constitute part of his deeds that both will survive—the latter, the root and stalk ; the former, the flower, of his fame.—*Henry C. Whitney.*

Abraham Lincoln, in my view, was charged with a divine mission, which he executed wisely and well, and is justly entitled to the reverence, gratitude, and love of all loyal citizens of our great republic.—*Neal Dow.*

He arrived at conclusions not by intuition, but by argument. This made him appear slow in difficult questions, but it gave him all the certainty of logic and the abiding convictions of duty. Once at a decision, he could not be moved from it.—*C. H. Fowler.*

There were men of might about his council board, scholars and statesmen, but none arose to his altitude, much less was either his master. His eye swept a wide horizon and descried clearly all within its circumference.—*T. M. Eddy.*

His great business was a single one, and that was to rebind the Union. There was but one method of doing it, and that was to *unbind the slave.* He did the latter, and thus accomplished the former.—*Cornelius H. Edgar.*

The tree of liberty is firmly planted upon our soil. Its roots strike into half a million of freedmen's graves; its center-root strikes to the bottom of Lincoln's grave. It is well watered by the blood of America's best.—*S. Reed.*

As the lapse of time shall smooth the asperities of a civil war, and shall throw its mellowing influences over the stories of his early life, his public services as President will stand without a rival or a peer in the day to which he belonged.—*Samuel F. Miller.*

His most striking characteristic was great *common sense.* That was the sheet anchor of his practical character. He always seemed to know when to speak and when to act, as well as when not to speak and not to act.—*J. P. Dailey.*

The President's last smiles were in thinking that the sad conscripts might be released, and the weary soldier soon discharged, and the wounded patriot soon on his own couch at home, telling his neighbors how he bravely fought his country's battles.—*Wm. M. Blackburn.*

When, in the very flush and glory of the triumphant progress of his armies, he showed a noble magnanimity of soul toward the vanquished, which stands as solitary among the history of rebellions, as our Republic does among the family of nations.—*J. F. Garrison.*

At City Point he moved down the long line of prostrate men—visiting each cot, taking the sick soldier by the hand, laying his hand on the pale brow, speaking a kind word to this one and that—till he had shed sunshine in every invalid's heart.—*Robert Lowry.*

When Victory hung out her glorious banner, he extended kindness, sympathy, forgiveness, for the suffering. Not one word of reproach, not a single taunt, not a whisper of revenge, not a desire for one degree of unnecessary sorrow.—*Mason Noble.*

He lived long enough to vindicate his policy in the conduct of the war, and to see the triumph of constitutional power—but not long enough to make a single mistake in the new field of duty, which was just opening before him.—*H. E. Niles.*

As we review his words and various state papers which came from his hand, they are stamped with a maturity of judgment which the annals of the future will inscribe. Few have equaled, and none excelled.—*C. C. Wallace.*

He was a frequent visitor in our camp, and we were enabled to observe his character in its most familiar aspects. He walked about among the soldiers in the freest manner, and with a kind word for everyone whom he met.—*Augustus Woodburn.*

Just as the blood and wounds of contending armies were drying up and healing on those silent and deserted battlefields, the chair of state sinks into the bier of death, on which lies that which was once the warm and useful life of Abraham Lincoln.—*David C. Coddington.*

We have had men who could take a higher intellectual grasp of any abstruse problem of statesmanship, but few have ever equaled, and none excelled, Lincoln in the practical, common-sense, and successful solution of the gravest problems ever presented in American

history. He possessed a peculiarly receptive and analytical mind. He sought information from every attainable source. He sought it persistently, weighed it earnestly, and in the end reached his own conclusions. When he had once reached a conclusion as to a public duty, there was no human power equal to the task of changing his purpose.—*A. K. McClure.*

His life has been of great good to this nation, because he "desired to be on the Lord's side," gave his voice for the freedom of the oppressed, and his life for the union of the States.—*John G. Fee.*

He will go down the dim aisles of the future with the torches of rejoicing flaming all around him, carried by four millions of a despised race, from whose limbs he struck the chains!—*J. Hazard Hartzell.*

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LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 872 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA December 24, 1945

WISE MEN LAUD LINCOLN

At Christmas time we are more or less apt to be complimentary, in fact, our gifts are sent with our compliments of the season. It would seem appropriate just now to present some tributes complimentary to Lincoln, written by men who have been endowed with more than the average allotment of wisdom.

Humble students of the cabin-born statesman are hesitant to laud the subject of their admiration for fear some of the self appointed critics of human achievement, may classify and publicize them as sentimental eulogists, dwelling outside the realm of sound judgment. However, it is not likely that the illustrious list of celebrities who will speak for us in this bulletin will be subdued so quickly or their testimonials wholly ignored.

SAVIOR OF THE REPUBLIC

The memory of Lincoln will live and endure among you, gathering reverence from age to age, the memory of one who saved the republic by his wisdom.—*James Bryce*

DIVINE HUMAN

A more divine human never has lived.—*S. Parks Cadman*

UNDERRATED

He was misunderstood and underrated in his lifetime, and even yet has hardly come to his own. For his place is among the great men of the world.—*Lord Charnwood*

INSPIRATION OF LIBERTY

The man whom the world honored and loved and who has inspired all the world to love liberty.—*Georges Clemenceau*

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He surpassed all others in those attributes which men feel are common to them all. In him they find the pure and unmixed elements.—*Calvin Coolidge*

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In the very accessories of his almost latest moments there is something so homely and so innocent that it takes the subject, as it were, out of the pomp of history and out of the ceremonials of diplomacy.—*Benjamin Disraeli*

GREATEST OF RECENT CENTURIES

Not only the greatest American, but greater than any men France, England, or any other country has produced in the last few centuries.—*John Drinkwater*

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The true representative of this continent, an entirely public man, father of his country, the pulse of twenty millions throbbing in his heart.—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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He was one of the few great rulers whose wisdom increased with his power and whose spirit grew gentler and tenderer as his triumphs were multiplied.—*James A. Garfield*

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I may feel free to speak of him as I might speak of Plato or St. Paul or any other of that little group of men but for whose lives and thoughts we should all be different from what we are.—*Lord Halifax*

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His life and achievements give him titles to regard second to those of no other man in ancient or modern times.—*Rutherford B. Hayes*

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Abraham Lincoln was the glory of his time, dear unto men and beloved of God.—*Newell Dwight Hilles*

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He is the gentlest memory of our world.—*Robert G. Ingersoll*

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God-given and God-led and sustained we must ever believe him.—*Wendell Phillips*

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He was a Christ in miniature, a saint of humanity.—*Leo Tolstoi*

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I think we are safe in including Abraham Lincoln in our list of (6) permanently great figures.—*H. G. Welles*

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The grandest figure yet on all the crowded canvas of the nineteenth century.—*Walt Whitman*

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He was like some great instrument of humanity. wherever life touched him he spoke back its meaning, gave forth fire to kindle its life.—*Woodrow Wilson*

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He belongs not to our age but to the ages, and yet, though he belongs to all time and to all peoples he is ours, for he is an American.—*Stephen S. Wise*

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27a Comp. Lincoln

Excerpts From Lincoln Day Orations By Eminent Men

The Springfield News - 2-13-09

Quotations from Addresses Delivered by Speakers at Tabernacle and Arsenal February 12

[Jusserand]

"The American people had a Washington when a Washington was needed, and a Lincoln when a Lincoln could save them.

"It was Lincoln's instinct which checked Seward's complicated schemes and dangerous calculations. Lincoln could not calculate so cleverly, but he could guess better.

"When the catastrophe happened, there were no more differences and the whole French nation was united in feeling. From the emperor and empress who telegraphed to Mrs. Lincoln to the humblest workman, the emotion was the same; a wave of sympathy covered the country, such a one as was never seen.

"Mr. Lincoln had but one object in view from the day of his election to that of his death, namely, the fulfillment of his duty, and his imagination never carried him beyond it.

"When in a log cabin in Kentucky, a hundred years ago this day, that child was born, who was named after his grandfather, killed by the Indians, Abraham Lincoln, Napoleon I swayed Europe, Jefferson was president of the United States, and the second war for independence had not yet come to pass."

[Bryce]

"Both among you and with us, his fame has continued to rise till he has now become one of the grandest figures whom America has given to world history to be a glory, first of this country, then also of mankind.

"Great men are the noblest possession of a nation and are potent forces in the moulding of national character. Their influence lives after them, and if they be good as well as great, they remain as beacons lighting the course of all who follow them. They set for succeeding generations the standards of public life. * * * The memory of Lincoln will live and endure among you, gathering reverence from age to age, the memory of one who saved the republic by his wisdom, his consistency, his faith in the people and in freedom, the memory of a plai nand simple man yet crowned with the knightly virtues of truthfulness, honor and courage."

[Dolliver]

"He was dissatisfied with his modest address at Gettysburg, read awkwardly from poorly written manuscript; and thought Edward Everett's oration was the best he had ever heard, but Mr. Everette himself discerned without a minute for reflection, that the little scrap of crumpled paper which the president held in his unsteady hand that day would be treasured from generation to generation after his own laborious deliverance had been forgotten. The old school of oratory and the new, met on that rude platform among the graves under the trees, and congratulated each other."

[Dolliver]

"His life in this world was a very short one, less than three score years; hardly ten of them visible above the level of the earth, yet into that brief space events were crowded so stupendous in their ultimate significance that we can hardly read the record which tries to put them down in writing, without a strange feeling coming over us that we are not reading about a man at all, but about some sublime instrument, brought into use by the infinite powers, to bless and to help the human race."

[Bryan]

"And, my friends, Lincoln was a representative of the latest development of the art of government, for Lincoln rested his hope and built his faith upon the hearts of men. I am glad that we live in this latter day, when the might of the brute is disappearing, when the cunning of the brain is no longer commanding the highest praise, when the characteristics of the heart are demanding consideration that they have never demanded before, (applause) and on this occasion when we meet to speak the name of Lincoln, it is a fitting time to raise our hearts in gratitude that he was one of the first and one of the greatest of those artists in the "royal are of government" to recognize the heart's place in the shaping of the destiny of man and the history of a nation." (Applause).

[Bryan]

"Go into France, the democracy represented by our distinguished guest here tonight, and you will find that while in their suffrage they have already reached their limit, while their government is already responsible to the will of the people, they are practically working out their problems. They are increasing the intelligence of their people, adding to the number of schools, and, what is more important, they are seeking to increase the number of home owners and are doing it, believing that when a man owns his home he is a better citizen than if he is merely a tenant and can be thrown out at will by some one else." (Applause.)

[Humphrey]

"Perhaps never again in any presence will so many of his old associates be assembled together to do honor to that immortal character given to the world by the great republic. We are in the midst of a universal celebration of which Springfield is the recognized center, and to know what is said and done here today the world is standing at attention. Many men in all ages have taught lessons of patriotism. Mr. Lincoln taught patriotism plus humanity. He knew, as few others have known, the lesson that more than wealth, more than fame, more than any other thing, is the power of the human heart.

"The notion has long been prevalent in the east and to some extent among historians of the period that Mr. Lincoln's greatness was all attained after he became president. Let that fallacy be forever set at rest. True it is, that the general recognition of his greatness came with his broadened opportunities, but his old friends in Illinois had for years known his power and recognized his strength."

[Dolliver]

"Who is this sitting on an old sofa in the public offices of the White House after the battle of Bull Run talking with quaint anecdote with the officers and soldiers and civilians and scared congressmen who poured in to tell their tale of woe—the one man in Washington with sense enough to understand it and patience enough to listen to it? Is it the log-cabin student learning to read by the light of the kitchen fire in the woods of Indiana? It is he. Can it be the awkward farm hand of the Sangamon who used to cover up his bare feet in fresh dirt which his plow had turned up to keep them from getting sun-burned while he sat down at the end of the furrow to rest his team and took a few more looks into the precious volume which had been borrowed from the neighbor?

Had News From Above.

They said he laughed a weird kind of a laugh and his eyes had a strange look in them that night on the sofa in the public offices in the White House. They did not know him. If they had known him they might have seen he was not looking at the crowd at all; that his immortal spirit was girding for the ordeal and if he laughed how could they be sure that he did not hear cheering news from above, for had he not read in the old book that "He who hath faith in the Heavens sometimes laughs and holds in derision the impotent plans of men to turn aside the everlasting purposes of God?" It took the American people four full years to find Abraham Lincoln out."

[Judge Humphrey]

"An eminent American, whose words have repeatedly touched the hearts and moved the souls of the people of the land, needs no introduction at my hands. Primarily he belongs to Illinois. Sister states of the nation may adopt him, but to us he will ever be hailed as a son of Illinois. With a generous pride in the achievements he has wrought; with a full recognition of the purity of his private life which makes him an example for the youth of the land, with a love which the zeal of party politics can never destroy, let us say to him tonight, "Welcome home, Mr. Bryan!"

[Jusserand]

"On two tragic occasions, at a century's distance, the fate of this country has trembled in the balance. Would it be a free nation? Would it continue to be one nation? A leader was wanted on both occasions, a very different one in each case. This boon from above was granted to the American people, who had a Washington when a Wash-

p. 27 ms

ington was needed, and a Lincoln when a Lincoln could save them."

[Bryce]

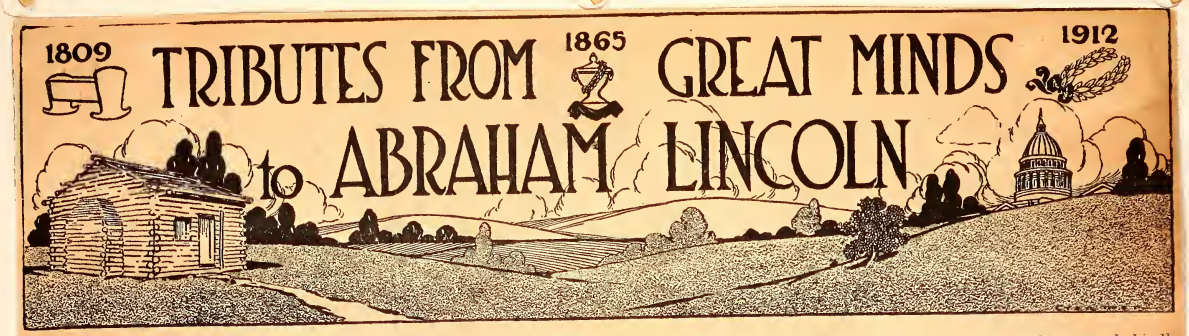
"Lincoln's true memorial is found in the legacy of his greatness he has given. You have erected a monument in this city but the whole United States is his monument. He was one of those who are perpetual glory, not merely to the nation who owed him a wise guide and leader."

[Bryan]

"A government that draws upon the wisdom of all the people is wiser than the government that rests upon the wisdom of a few of the people (applause), and a monarchy, while it may act more quickly upon a given point or subject is not the strongest."

[JUSSERAND]

"I am happy to address this vast audience. It is in Springfield that Lincoln received his first laurels. It is this city that owes much to Lincoln and it is to him that the honor of being the capital of a great state is due. Lincoln holds in the hearts of compatriots the same place as George Washington. One created the United States and the other prevented their destruction. When Washington fought, France stood by him as a friend. When Lincoln fought there was one regiment of French soldiers from New York, which fought until the battle of Fredericksburg."



TRIBUTES FROM GREAT MINDS to ABRAHAM LINCOLN

TO-MORROW is the one hundred and third anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Modern history does not record another instance where an individual ascended from a cradle so humble, an origin so obscure, to a height so exalted, a tomb so magnificent. After the assassination of Mr. Lincoln great men of the world vied with each other in glowing tributes to the virtues of our "First American." Monuments were reared in his honor, memorial tablets related his achievements, poets sang his praises and sculptors and artists portrayed his rugged, kindly features. Each recurring anniversary of his birth or death records added eulogies of this marvellous, matchless man of homespun, who guided the destinies of our nation to a successful issue through four years of bloody sacrifice and atonement for 250 years of slavery. From the countless thousands of panegyrics spoken in praise of our martyred President, the following are selected:

WE have never had in public life a man whose sense of duty was stronger, whose bearing toward those with whom he came in contact, whether his friends or his political opponents, was characterized by a greater sense of fairness. We have never had in public life a man who took upon himself so uncomplainingly the woes of the nation and suffered in his soul from the weight of them as he did, nor in all our history a man who had such a mixture of far-sightedness, of understanding of the people, of common sense, of high sense of duty, of power of inexorable logic, and of confidence in the goodness of God in working out a righteous result as had this great product of the soil of our country. One cannot read of Abraham Lincoln without loving him. One cannot think of his struggles, of his life and its tragic end, without weeping. One cannot study his efforts, his conscience, his heroism, his patriotism, and the burdens of bitter attack and calumny under which he suffered, and think of the place he now occupies in the history of this country, without a moral inspiration of the most stirring and intense character.

—*President William H. Taft.*

IN the character of the victim, and in the very accessories of his almost latest moments, there is something so homely and so innocent that it takes the subject, as it were, out of the pomp of history and out of the ceremonial of diplomacy. —*Benjamin Disraeli.*

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CONGER

"Compilations"
27a Tributes
unidentified clipping
[11 April, 1912]

A RARE PORTRAIT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

(From the original plate now in possession of J. P. Sabin, New York City.)

MR. LINCOLN afforded so noble an example of the qualities befitting the first magistrate of a free people, that in the most trying circumstances he gradually won not only the admiration, but also the personal affection of all who love freedom or appreciate simplicity and uprightness.

—*John Stuart Mill.*

WHO can say that the President did not lay down his life by the firmness of his devotion to a great duty? The name of Lincoln will be one of the greatest that history has to inscribe on its annals. —*D'Aubigne.*
(Historian of the Reformation.)

IF ever a man was fairly tested, Lincoln was. There was no lack of resistance, nor of slander. In the whirlwind of war his endurance, his fertility of resources, his magnanimity, were sorely tried and never found wanting. He is the true history of the American people. Step by step he walked before them—slow with their slowness, quickening his march by theirs, the true representative of this continent, an entirely public man, father of his country, the pulse of twenty millions throbbing in his heart.

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

THE man whose homely face you look upon was one of nature's masterful, great men; born with strong arms, that unfought battles won. Direct of speech and cunning with the pen. Chosen for large designs, he had the art of winning with his humor, and he went straight to his mark, which was the human heart; wise, too, for what he could not break he bent. Upon his back a more than Atlas load, the burden of the commonwealth, was laid. He stooped and rose up to it, though the road shot suddenly downward, not a whit dismayed. Hold warriors, councillors, kings! All now give place to this dead benefactor of the race!

—*Richard Henry Stoddard.*

HERE was an heir of poverty and insignificance, obscure, untaught, buried throughout his childhood in the frontier forests, with no transcendent dazzling abilities—one of the millions of strivers for a rude livelihood, who, though attaching himself stubbornly to the less popular party, and especially so in the State which he had chosen as his home, did, nevertheless, become a central figure of the Western hemisphere, and an object of honor, love and reverence throughout the civilized world. Looking back through the lifting mists of seven eventful, tragic, trying, glorious years, I clearly discern that the one providential leader, the indispensable hero of the great drama, faithfully reflecting, even in his hesitation and seeming vacillations the sentiment of the masses—fitted by his very defects and shortcomings for the burden laid upon him, the good to be wrought out through him, was Abraham Lincoln.

—*Horace Greeley*

STRANGE mingling of mirth and tears, of the tragic and grotesque, of cap and crown, of Socrates and Rabelais, of Aesop and Marcus Aurelius, of all that is gentle and just, humorous and honest, merciful, wise, laughable, lovable and divine, and all consecrated to the use of man; while through all and over all an overwhelming sense of obligation, of chivalric loyalty to truth, and upon all the shadow of the tragic end. Nothing discloses real character like the use of power. If you wish to know what a man really is give him power. This is the supreme test. It is the glory of Lincoln that, having almost unlimited power, he never abused it, except on the side of mercy. Wealth could not purchase, power could not awe this divine, this loving man. He knew no fear except the fear of doing wrong. Hating slavery, pitying the master, seeking to conquer not persons but prejudices, he was the embodiment of the self-denial, the courage, the hope and the nobility of the nation. He spoke not to inflame, not to upbraid, but to convince. He raised his hands, not to strike, but in benediction. He longed to pardon. He loved to see the pearls of joy on the cheeks of a wife whose husband he had rescued from death. Lincoln was the grandest figure of the civil war. He is the gentlest memory of our world. —*Robert Ingersoll.*

YONDER stands the Temple of Fame, with a door that is open by day and by night; and a tall, thin, sallow boy turns his back upon a log cabin in Illinois and knocks for entrance, and lo! the angel at the threshold asks hard questions: "Can you eat crusts? Can you wear rags? Can you sleep in a garret? Can you endure sleepless nights and days of toil? Can you bear up against every wind that assails your bark? Can you live for liberty and God's truth and can you die for them?" And that boy bowed assent. Lincoln built the ladder up which he climbed out of rails which his own hands had split. Like his Divine Master, he touched two or three crusts and turned them into bread for the hungry multitudes. His little log cabin shames our palaces. His three books eclipse our libraries; his six months in a log schoolhouse were more than equal to our eight years in lecture hall and library. His fidelity to his great convictions shames our shifting politicians. For fifty years he walked forward under clouded skies. Like Dante, he held heartbreak at bay. He died without recognition or reward. In retrospect he stands forth the saddest and sweetest, the strongest and gentlest, the most picturesque and the most pathetic figure in all history. —*Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis.*

NOW he belongs to the ages.

There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever known. The most Christlike mortal that ever wielded power.

—*Edwin M. Stanton.*

THANK God for Abraham Lincoln! However lightly the words may sometimes pass your lips, let us speak them now and always of [illegible] man sincerely, solemnly, reverent[illegible] as so often dying soldiers and be[illegible]reaved women and little children speak them. Thank God for Abraham Lincoln—for the Lincoln who died and whose ashes rest at Springfield—for the Lincoln who lives in the hearts of the American people—in their widened sympathies and uplifted ideals. —*James Willis Glead.*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN was a charac[illegible] so unique that he stood [illegible]without a model in history or a[illegible]del among men. He was one of the few great rulers whose wisdom increased with his power and whose spirit grew gentler and tenderer as his triumphs were multiplied.

—*James A. Garfield.*

LINCOLN is the honestest man I ever knew.

—*Stephen A. Douglas.*

YOU who are aristocrats by lineage! You who roost in a genealogical tree! You who boast the glory of ancestral escutcheon! You whose royalty is borrowed!' You of every name, to you I say, behold this man! A man of the people! No king ever knighted him. A man of the plain people; no class ever ruled him. A man raised by the majesty of the might of honest purpose and the weight of personal integrity to the Presidency! A man to whom conscience was an ever-present monitor! A man to whom duty was a constant inspiration! A man to whom citizenship was an intrusted responsibility! A man to whom country was a divine heritage! A man who was unable to surrender the truth! A man who was without jealousies! A man who was larger than any task! A man to whom humanity was his brother! Behold this man! A Mont Blanc, a Jupiter, a Colossus among men—your friend, my friend, the negroes' friend; God's ambassador of patience, of liberty, of honesty, of loyalty, of divinity—to this century, to all time.

—*Rev. Frank D. Sheets, D. D.*

LET no Southern man point finger at me because I canonize Abraham Lincoln. The direst blow that could have been laid upon the prostrate South was delivered by the assassin's bullet that struck him down; for he was the one friend we had at court when friends were most in need; he was the one man in power who wanted to preserve us intact, to save us from the wolves of passion and plunder that stood at our door. I see him lying dead there in the Capitol of the nation, to which he had rendered "the last full measure of his devotion," the flag of his country wrapped about him, the world in mourning, and, asking myself, how could any one have hated that man, I ask, how can any man refuse homage to his memory? A thousand years hence no drama, no tragedy, no epic poem will be filled with greater wonder, or be followed by mankind with deeper feeling than that which tells the story of his life and death.

—*Henry Watterson.*

SAINTED soul, thou hast indeed entered the promised rest; are yet on the march. To us remains the rocking of the storm upon the land, days of duty and nights of watching; but sphered above all darkness and fear, beyond all sorrow and weari Thou standest among the elect; around thee are the royal men who ennobled life in every age; kingly art thou, with glory on thy h as a diadem, and joy is upon thee forevermore! Over all this land, c all the little cloud of years that now, from thy infinite horizon, wa back from thee as a spark, thou art lifted up as high as the star is al the clouds that hide us, but never reach it. In the goodly company Mount Zion thou shalt find that rest which thou didst seek in vain on ear and thy name, an everlasting name in heaven, shall flourish in fragran and beauty as long as men shall last upon the earth or hearts remain t revere truth, fidelity and goodness.

—*Henry Ward Beecher.*

CHIEFTAIN, farewell! The nation mourns thee. Mothers shall teach thy name to their lisping children. The youth of our land shall emulate thy virtues. Statesmen shall study thy record and from it learn lessons of wisdom. Mute though thy lips be, yet they still speak. Hushed is thy voice, but its echoes of liberty are ringing through the world, and the sons of bondage listen with joy. We crown thee as our martyr, and humanity enthrones thee as her triumphant son. Hero, martyr, friend, farewell!"

—*Bishop Matthew Simpson.*

(From his eulogy delivered above the bier of Lincoln at Springfield, Ill.)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Observance of the Twenty-fourth Anniversary of His Death.

Simple Services and a Brief Oration at the Tomb—Letters of Regret from President Harrison and Many Others.

1889

Special Dispatch to the Globe-Democrat.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 15.—The observance of the twenty-fourth anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln was more than ordinarily well attended here to-day. It was under the direction of the Lincoln Memorial League, a local organization formed for the purpose of managing the services in honor of the great emancipator on stated occasions. The services were held between the hours of 3 and 4 in the afternoon at the Lincoln monument north of the city. Early in the morning the flag was displayed at half mast from the dome of the State House, from the Government building, the City Hall and all the fire engine houses, and at the old Lincoln home, on the corner of Eighth and Jackson streets. The standards of two

Abraham Lincoln.

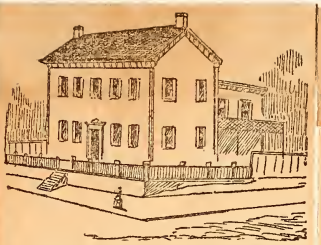
draped flags were crossed over the front entrance and the home was kept open all day for the reception of visitors. During the hours of the services at the tomb all the bells of the city were tolled at intervals of one minute. A beautiful wreath of evergreens and flowers was hung on the statue of Lincoln in the state House, and a draped flag was displayed above it. The weather was delightful, and a great crowd assembled at the monument.

The services, which were quite simple, lasted just fifty minutes. They were held in the open air, and consisted of a song by the league, prayer by the league chaplain, the Rev. B. F. Crouse, and the recitation by Mrs. E. S. Johnson of Lincoln's favorite poem, beginning:

> O why should the spirit of mortal be proud,
> A swift-fleeting meteor, a fast-flying cloud.

DR. EDWARDS' ORATION.

This was followed by a fifteen-minute oration by the Rev. Richard Edwards, LL. D., State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in which the speaker very ingeniously and ably analyzed the elements of Lincoln's greatness. He said it was a common habit to speak of the times and circumstances as having made Lincoln great. He admitted that Lincoln had met an occasion the like of which did not arise oftener perhaps than once in a thousand years, but he was inherently great. He had been a Mississippi River flatboat man, but he had in him the extraordinary elements which enabled him to convert the untoward circumstances of that occupation to his own moral education. Nature gave him power enough to convert the most evil and adverse situations into a



Abraham Lincoln's House at Springfield.

positive good. "Now," said the speaker, "I ask you to hunt the history of this world and see how few men have been similarly endowed. You must agree with me that nature made Lincoln great. The time was only the opportunity for exhibiting his power."

Dr. Edwards referred to the estimation in which the great President had been held abroad and the subsequent revision of that estimate in the light of his accomplished work. And this, he said, had brought mankind practically to the same estimate of him, and that was that he and Washington were incomparably the greatest characters the Western world had produced.

After the singing of "America" by the league and the benediction by Rev. A. A. Burleigh, the chaplain of the State Senate, the members of the League passed into the catacomb and deposited sprigs of evergreen on the sarcophagus, which was almost buried in flowers and wreaths. One of the most conspicuous ornaments upon it was a large pillow of cut flowers, sent by Mrs. Harrison from the White House conservatory at Washington.

Letters of Regret.

Some time ago letters were sent to various prominent persons, soliciting their presence at the ceremonies of to-day, or expressions of sentiment appropriate thereto. The responses to these were read as a part of the exercises. A summary of part of them is given herewith. The President of the United states wrote as follows:

PRESIDENT HARRISON.

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, D. C., March 27, 1889.—To R. B. Hoover, President Lincoln Memorial League, Springfield, Ill.: MY DEAR SIR—I have received your letter of

The Lincoln Monument.

the 23d, inviting me to be present with your association at the annual observance around the tomb of Lincoln on the 15th of April. It would give me great pleasure to be present on this interesting and historic occasion, but public duties will prevent me from accepting your very kind invitation. Very truly yours, BENJ. HARRISON."

A year ago an invitation was sent to President Cleveland, but no response was received.

EX-PRESIDENT HAYES.

"FREMONT, O., March 30.—MY DEAR SIR: I beg you to receive my thanks for the invitation to attend the ceremonies at the tomb of Lincoln on the anniversary of his death. One need not now try to write new words in praise of Lincoln. There came to us from across the sea when he fell, from hands not always friendly, a host of efforts to do justice to his memory. Let me quote:

"'History, which embalms few reputations so spotless as his, will give him his due. It will tell that, though his work was bloody, his heart was kind; it will tell with what joy he cast aside the sword and was preparing to welcome back those who had forced him to use it; it will tell how he loved peace, how he sought it, and how, when it seemed on the point of coming, when his arms were stretched out to receive it, he fell dead at the post of duty and of honor.' Sincerely yours, RUTHERFORD B. HAYES."

HON. ROBT. T. LINCOLN.

The President of the League, thinking Hon. Robt. T. Lincoln might desire especially to visit Springfield before going abroad, sent him a note calling his attention to the annual ceremonies of the Memorial League at the tomb, and on Saturday last received a very agreeable letter from him, in which occurs a sentence expressive of the writer's conception of the attitude proper for him to assume in respect to public expressions of esteem for his father. He says:

"While I am profoundly grateful for the sentiments which inspire a number of associations similar to yours, I have always thought it most becoming that I should not take part in their special services, and for this reason I have always declined such invitations."

GEN. LEW WALLACE.

The letter of Gen. Lew Wallace, written from Crawfordsville, Ind., contains this passage:

"There have been a great many good men made manifest by their services to our beloved country; but, aside from Washington, it is my deliberate judgment that the verdict of posterity will be to place Abraham Lincoln foremost of them all. It is but natural that this should be the sentiment of all who knew him when he walked the earth, our leader in peace and war; nor is it any less natural that we should desire to stamp our impressions of him upon the coming generations, if only that his example should not be lost. For that reason, with many others, your league should maintain its existence, and the ceremonies at his tomb, however simple, should become perennial."

GEN. W. T. SHERMAN.

The following is the closing portion of Gen. W. T. Sherman's letter:

"Unlike the fame of most heroes of history, which grows less and less as time rushes on, that of Abraham Lincoln becomes more and more resplendent with each recurring year. His unselfish patriotism, his clear insight, his powerful intellect and wonderful kindness and sympathy compose a character which compares favorably with any in ancient or modern times, bringing his name and renown into close rivalry with those of George Washington himself. I am sure the people of Springfield guard a sacred trust, and that all their tokens and reverence for Abraham Lincoln will be construed by every patriot on earth a patriotic tribute of love and respect in which each would like to share."

HANNIBAL HAMLIN.

Hannibal Hamlin writes, in a very neat, but noticeably tremulous hand, from Bangor, Me.: "If the wise policy of Washington was of supreme service in leading our armies in the Revolution, and his statesmanship of surpassing importance in founding our Government, of no less importance was the incomparable statesmanship of Abraham Lincoln in saving that Government from destruction. If the one was greatly instrumental in creating our republic, the other was no less so in perpetuating it. Honor, then, their lives and their distinguished services to our country. It is well and wise to do so."

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

In a long letter from George William Curtis, dated at West New Brighton, S. I., occurs the following:

"It is no wonder that we are half inclined to regard our country as peculiarly the favorite of heaven, since in our great contest for independence it was Washington who led us, and in the equally great conflict to maintain national union it was Lincoln who stood in Washington's place. More and more they are instinctively men linked together, and no third name is joined to theirs. In the great centennial celebration (now approaching) of the beginning of constitutional government in this country, the names of Washington and Lincoln will be blended in honor as they are associated in unparalleled public service.

"The plain man, who made his home in your town, has given to it a distinction which other places might well envy. His noiseless and unobtrusive life there would have ended quietly except for the chance fitly to improve one of the greatest opportunities ever offered to man. The intimate details of his course as President, shown to us by Messrs. Hay and Nicolay, disclose qualities which nothing but the most extraordinary exigencies could have developed, and a grandeur of manhood which will be a glory of his countrymen forever. You may be sure that the heart of a great people joins in your affectionate local commemoration of a man who makes us all prouder to bear the name of an American."

OTHER LETTERS.

Senator Cullom, who expected to be present, sent a letter saying that, almost at the completion of his arrangements for coming, he was compelled to change his plans.

Gen. Longstreet, who is sick, says that when he first received an invitation he thought it possible for him to be in Illinois and to come to Springfield to-day, but that he now finds his health so poor that he is "not even in condition to make a fitting reply to the kind invitation" of President Hoover soliciting his attendance.

Judge Gresham wrote ten days ago that he would be in Springfield to-day and would speak at the memorial service, but a letter from him Sunday morning announced that pressing business had obliged him to change his plans.

FROM WASHINGTON'S TOMB.

A beautiful incident of the present occasion was the receipt of a box of sprigs and leaves from the old magnolia tree, which was planted at Mount Vernon by Gen. Washington in 1799. The President of the Mount Vernon Association writes that, while he was cogitating as to what he could do in the way of a tribute to Lincoln on this anniversary, a limb was broken down from the old magnolia by a storm. He had the sprigs and leaves gathered up and laid on Gen. Washington's sarcophagus, and thence taken, boxed up and sent here. They were wrought into a huge wreath, and to day lay on the Lincoln sarcophagus in the catacomb of the monument. The members of the league have each preserved a few of the leaves as a memento of the incident and of the day.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MAYOR HAY.

When the officers of the League called on Mayor Hay to arrange for the tolling of the city bells, the Mayor said:

"I can hardly have believed that we have reached the twenty-fourth anniversary of Lincoln's death. I remember the occasion with great distinctness. The day Lincoln's remains reached here was the day set for my marriage. Instead of standing up for that interesting ceremony I was detailed to stand guard over the remains of the martyred President. The day of the funeral I stood with the rest of the guard, for four hours, keeping the space open at the catafalque for the crowds to pass through and view the body. It was a scene worthy of a painter's pencil. The sympathy and sorrow had become so all-pervading and contagious that I remember we could tell as the people advanced, who, especially among the women, were likely to become demonstrative. Time and again I singled out these particular persons before they had got near the casket. They were easily distinguishable on account of their peculiar, jerky, hysterical motions. More than twenty of these fainted about the time they reached a point where they could see the face of the dead President.

"It is not generally understood," he continued, "that when the procession started that day only a few knew where they were going, and these the men having the management of the affair in charge. The uncertainty arose in this way: As soon as the news of Lincoln's death was received, mechanics were put to work to build a vault for the reception of the body on the ground where the State House now stands. Negotiations were started for the purchase of all that property then vacant there, to be used as monument grounds. There was no indication or intimation of a different plan till the morning of the day on which the body arrived here. Then a telegram came from Mrs. Lincoln saying she would not consent to have the body laid there. She wanted it taken to Oak Ridge Cemetery, and said if it were laid in the Second street property she would have it removed to Oak Ridge. The site then in contemplation was so much the more public and eligible that I have always regarded her action in the matter as the first real manifestation of the sad mental wreck caused by the death of her husband."

Mayor Hay is a brother to Col. John Hay, the collaborator with John G. Nicolay in the great biography of Lincoln published in the *Century Magazine*.

J WRIGHT

Lincoln 'Man for Ages,' Clevelanders All Agree

BY PETER BELLAMY

A simple backwoodsman who never saw an adding machine, moving picture or the Soldiers and Sailors Monument—and might not have been pleased if he had—is still the revered idol of industrial Cleveland.

He was that melancholy, gangling, bearded American hero named Abraham Lincoln, born 138 years ago today.

Today I visited theaters, stores, offices and street corners of Cleveland to catch a variety of citizens off guard to see what they really thought of Lincoln.

They All Agree

Of the 10 I talked to, all agreed he was one of America's greatest men and one of whom it has been truly said "belongs to the ages." And a truck driver who wasn't sure the slaves should have been freed when they were, was balanced by a bartender who was comforted by the fact that Lincoln once sold whisky, too.

Hhere is what they said:

BARTENDER—"He was certainly one of the greatest presidents we ever had, and even greater than Roosevelt, because he made it the hard way."

PRIVATE SECRETARY—"Lincoln and Washington were our two greatest Americans, both outstanding for their honesty. I've forgotten a lot of what I learned about Lincoln in school, but he must have had trouble operating the country without adding and business machines."

METAL MOULDER, ex-GI—"You shouldn't have to ask me why I think Lincoln is the greatest man who ever lived. If he hadn't freed the slaves—my people—I wouldn't have the chance to earn my own living."

CLOTHING MERCHANT—"Lincoln was not only a great war president, but a great humanitarian, sympathetic to all oppressed peoples. In that, he was like Roosevelt, with whom I would place him on a par."

TRUCK DRIVER—"I never gave a darn who was elected president and who wasn't. I guess Lincoln was a good president, partly because money didn't talk as much in his day as it does now. He freed the slaves, if that was a good idea then."

POLICEMAN — "Lincoln proved our democracy by coming up the hard way. Washington had plenty to help him along, but Lincoln did it all the hard way. He was honest in his beliefs and a real fighter."

THEATER USHER—"He was one of the most wonderful men who ever lived. He believed in real equality and justice for everybody, regardless of race, color or creed."

HOTEL CLERK, an ex-GI.—"His tolerant philosophy of life and his freeing the slaves are the greatest things about Lincoln. I'm a Republican and that I think that Roosevelt is the greater man is probably because I was alive when he was."

CAB DRIVER—"Lincoln made mistakes like a lot of presidents, and would have done even more good if he had lived, but he's still one of our greatest men. He was like Roosevelt, execpt Roosevelt had his and was up there already.

HOUSEWIFE—"I think the outstanding thing about Lincoln was that he was not only a great president but a great man. He was gentle and kind, and his heart went out to oppressed and little people."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1947

LINCOLN LORE

No. 117 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA July 6, 1931

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF THE LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ENDOWED BY THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

LINCOLN EULOGIZED BY THE PRESIDENTS

The editor of Lincoln Lore was one of the many admirers of Abraham Lincoln who attended the rededication of the Lincoln tomb at Springfield, Illinois, on Wednesday, June 17.

President Hoover's dedication tribute to Abraham Lincoln suggested the availability of eulogies pronounced by other presidents. Those presented here are but excerpts of some of the words of praise which have been pronounced in honor of the best loved of our presidents.

::—::

Andrew Johnson.

"Our thoughts next revert to the death of the late President by an act of parricidal treason. The grief of the nation is still fresh; it finds some solace in the consideration that he lived to enjoy the highest proof of its confidence by entering on the renewed term of the Chief Magistracy, to which he had been elected; that he brought the civil war substantially to a close; that his loss was deplored in all parts of the Union; and that foreign nations have rendered justice to his memory."

—Message of the President to the Congress, 1865.

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U. S. Grant.

"He always showed a generous and kindly spirit towards the southern people and I never heard him abuse an enemy. . . . I knew his goodness of heart, his desire to have everybody happy, and above all, his desire to see all the people of the United States enter again upon the full privileges of citizenship with equality among all."

—Personal Memoirs.

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Rutherford B. Hays.

"Lincoln's fame is safe. He is the darling of history forevermore. His life and achievements give him titles to regard second to those of no other man in ancient or modern times. To these, this tragedy now adds the crown of martyrdom."

—Letter to Sardis Birchard, April 16, 1865.

James A. Garfield.

"The man who presided over that council, who inspired and guided its deliberations, was a character so unique that he stood alone, without a model in history or a parallel among men. . . . gifted with an insight and a foresight which the ancients would have called divination, he saw, in the midst of darkness and obscurity, the logic of events, and forecast the result. . . . He was one of the few great rulers whose wisdom increased with his power, and whose spirit grew gentler and tenderer as his triumphs were multiplied."

—From address delivered in Washington, Feb. 12, 1878.

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William McKinley.

"A thousand years hence no story, no tragedy, no epic poem, will be filled with greater wonder than that which tells of his life and death. If Lincoln was not inspired of God then there is no such thing on earth as special providence in the interposition of divine power in the affairs of men. A noble manhood, nobly consecrated to man never dies. The Martyr to Liberty, the Emancipator of a race, the Savior of the only free government among men, may be buried from human sight but his deeds will live in human gratitude forever."

—From address before Marquette Club of Chicago, Feb. 12, 1896.

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Theodore Roosevelt.

"He lived in days that were great and terrible. . . . At such times men see through a glass darkly; to only the rarest and loftiest spirits is vouchsafed that clear vision which gradually comes to all, but to Lincoln was given this supreme vision. . . . this whole nation will grow to feel a peculiar sense of pride for the union of his people and for the freedom of a race; the lover of his country and all mankind; the mightiest of the mighty men who mastered the mighty days, Abraham Lincoln."

—Address at Hodgenville, Feb. 12, 1909.

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William H. Taft.

"We feel a closer touch with him than with living men. The influence he still wields, one may say with all reverence, has a Christ-like character. It has spread to the four quarters of the globe. The oppressed and lowly of all peoples, as liberty and free government spread, pronounce his name with awe, and cherish his assured personal sympathy as a source of hope. . . . The harmony of his message with every popular aspiration of freedom proves his universitality."

—Address in Washington, May 30, 1922.

Woodrow Wilson.

"Lincoln, nevertheless, rather than Jackson, was the supreme American of our history. . . Lincoln was always a-making; he would have died unfinished if the terrible storms of the war had not stung him to learn in those four years, what no other twenty could have taught him. And, as he stands there in his complete manhood, at the most perilous helm in Christendom, what a marvellous, composite figure he is! The whole country is summed up in him."

—From article in Forum, Feb., 1894.

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Warren G. Harding.

"No human story surpasses the fascination and the inspiration of that of Abraham Lincoln. The Republic pays him tribute tonight, and most of the world is doing him reverence. Because of his unshaken faith the world finds its own hopes mightily strengthened. Our words are all feeble, because we are dealing with the master martyr, the supreme leader in a national crisis, the surpassing believer in a fulfilled destiny, and a colossal figure among the hero-statesmen of all the ages."

From address delivered at Lincoln Memorial University, Feb. 12, 1923.

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Calvin Coolidge.

"In wisdom great, but in humility greater, in justice strong, but in compassion stronger, he became a leader of men by being a follower of the truth. He overcame evil with good. His presence filled the nation. He broke the might of oppression. He restored a race to its birthright. His mortal fame has vanished, but his spirit increased, with the increasing years, the richest legacy of the greatest century."

—From Lincoln Proclamation, Issued Feb. 12, 1926.

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Herbert Hoover.

"Nothing that we may say here can add to the knowledge or devotion of our people to the memory of Abraham Lincoln. Nothing that we may do can add to his stature in history. All that words can convey has long since been uttered by his grateful countrymen . . . A nation in its whole lifetime flowers with but few whose names remain upon the roll of the world in after generations. Lincoln after all these years still grows not only in the hearts of his countrymen but in the hearts of the peoples of all the world."

—Address at Springfield, Ill., June 17, 1931.

Abraham Lincoln Eulogized In Pulpits of Local Churches

'He Expressed and Embodied the Life of the Nation,' Declares the Rev. Lester H. Clee.

"Lincoln's life epitomizes American history," the Rev. Lester H. Clee, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, said in his sermon last night.

"He was born in a cabin as primitive as that of the first settlers in the Colonial period. He lived through the successive periods of American development as expressed in the backwoods settlement—the frontier town, the new State capital, and the seat of the national power. From the cabin to the White House he expressed and embodied the life of the nation. Lincoln was born in the South, but we do not think of him as a Southerner. He directed the armies of the North, but we do not think of him as a Northerner. He fought the war without hate, and he never cherished sectional jealously or bigotry.

The Rev. Lester H. Clee

"America makes high profession of faith when she claims Abraham Lincoln as the exponent of her national life. The manhood of a nation that claims Lincoln should be clean, upright, honest, patriotic, sympathetic, magnanimous and noble.

"From Caesar to Bismark and Gladstone, the world has had its statesmen and its soldiers—men who rose from obscurity to eminence and power, step by step, through a series of geometric progression, as it were, each advancement following in regular order one after the other, the whole obedient to well-established and well-understood laws of cause and effect."

"Soul of Religion"

"The life of no other prominent American has sounded a more profound religious note than that of Abraham Lincoln," the Rev. Dr. Berryman H. McCoy, pastor of St. Paul's M. E. Church, said in his sermon last night.

"Lincoln is quoted by religious speakers everywhere as voicing the soul of religion," he said. Yet Lincoln never joined a church. Had church membership always been accepted as synonymous with religion, then Lincoln's place in the esteem of the church would be empty.

Not a Churchman

"It is common knowledge that devoted churchman are sometimes barren of religious vitality. Others wo can not and do not accept the creedal requirements of the churches are persons of warm religious fervor. This was true of Abraham Lincoln. No church of his day quite met his ideal or his need. He felt that the very heart of religion was found in the Savior's words: 'Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.' A church established upon these words, in its belief and practice, would have satisfied Lincoln and gained his allegiance.

The Rev. Dr. B. H. McCoy

"In this attitude of mind Lincoln is surrounded by a growing multitude of his fellow Americans, a host of thinking men and women who have no sympathy with or interest in dogmatic claims or controversies today. They ask, with Lincoln, for religion that is life. They can not accept the Old framework of outworn denominationalism. They can and will accept a religion that is interested in life and that gives life."

"Wreath of Affection"

"We come once again to lay a wreath of affection upon the shrine of the immortal Lincoln," the Rev Dr. William Hiram Foulkes, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, said in his sermon last night, speaking to four troops of Boy Scouts attending the service.

"We celebrate the birthday anniversary of this noble man who set a race free from the bondage of human slavery. My text is the simple story of a runaway slave sent back to his master. By whom? By a judge or a spy, by some informer or someone greedy for reward, doubtless posted? Not at all.

The Rev. Dr. W. H. Foulkes

"It was none other than the Apostle Paul who sent him back to his owner. It seems scarcely credible a man who had caught so much of the spirit of the Nazarene should do such a thing.

NEWARK N. J. STAR
FEBRUARY 10, 1930

The Question, Who Is the Foremost Man in American History, Washington Excepted? Answered by Statesmen, Soldiers and Prominent Citizens Generally—An Interesting Symposium for Memorial Day.

Dwight L. Moody: Lincoln.

Thomas A. Edison: Abraham Lincoln—the clearest-cut American yet born.

John Brisbane Walker, editor of the Cosmopolitan: Abraham Lincoln, because he suffered and did more for the country than any other man since Washington. Also, because he was the author of that admirable saying, "God must love the common people, because he made so many of them."

Rev. Minot J. Savage, D. D.: I regard Abraham Lincoln as the greatest American, perhaps excepting George Washington—though I am not quite sure of that. I admire him for his brain, for his heart, for his moral character, for whatever goes to the making of a man. I believe that the further we get away from him, the taller and grander he will seem to us to be.

Senator Shelby M. Cullom, of Illinois. My choice falls upon Abraham Lincoln—statesman, jurist, emancipator. No man since Shakspeare could so rightly be called myriad-minded. It has been charged that the generation that has succeeded him has idealized his character. I do not agree with the statement. We who knew the man personally and intimately, and who have made

Rev. Lyman Abbott, D. D., of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn: Abraham Lincoln; because, after Washington, he was the surest and bravest pilot that the ship of state has known; and because he conferred the priceless boon of freedom upon the slaves. Lincoln's saying, "If slavery be not wrong, nothing is wrong," deserves to be carved forever upon the frieze of the national capitol. Not a year goes by in which the fame of the gaunt, great-souled backwoodsman does not wax greater. When the nations of the earth wish to point to an admirable American they choose Lincoln, even in preference to Washington.

Chauncey M. Depew: Abraham Lincoln is my favorite character, because I look upon him as the finest exemplar of genuine Americanism that this country has seen so far. For his stalwart patriotism, his perfect honesty, his keen humor, and his ability in public affairs, "Old Abe" deserves, in my mind, first place.

Representative Charles H. Grosvenor, of Ohio: I am asked to mention the name of the person, dead or living, who is my favorite national character, other than Washington. Were I not impelled by a sort of sentiment or idea that it is unwise to write of men who are living in strong terms of praise, my paper would not be what it is. Mr. Lincoln, to my mind, fills the highest niche in the temple of great and favorite characters among the American people. If I could bring my mind to believe that the Almighty especially raises men for special purposes, and disregards their early opportunities and developments in making choice, I should believe that the Almighty as distinctively raised up and ordained Abraham Lincoln for the purpose of his later life and activity, as that Moses was the chosen of God to lead the children of Israel. And I do not want it to be understood that I do not believe in this theory. I do not know the theory to be true and I never can know it, but I can not account for Abraham Lincoln upon any hypothesis other than the direct imposition of God Almighty.

St Louis Globe Democrat May 29 1898

Tributes to Abraham Lincoln

Mothers shall teach his name to their lisping children. The youth of our land shall emulate his virtues. Statesman shall study his record and learn lessons of wisdom. Mute though his lips be, yet they still speak. Hushed is his voice, but its echoes of liberty are ringing through the world, and the sons of bondage listen with joy. —*Matthew Simpson.*

The figure of Lincoln, as the typical American who carried the burden of the presidency through the greatest crisis that this country had to encounter, looms so large in our history that no effort should be spared to bring his personalities and his wonderful character and virtues to the knowledge of the present people and coming generation. —*Wm. H. Taft.*

In all history, with the sole exception of the man who founded this Republic, I do not think there will be found another statesman at once so great and so single hearted in his devotion to his people. —*Theo. Roosevelt.*

Lincoln's vision was not simply, that of a statesman; it was a prophets, and time has vindicated his very act and utterances: His life and death are America's greatest inherritance, and his memory is its greatest inspiration.

—*John A. Johnson,* (late Gov. of Minnesota.)

He went about his work—such work as few,
  Ever had laid on head and heart and hand—
As one who knows, where there's a task to do
  Man's honest will must Heaven's good grace command.

His name will ever be in the hearts of the American people, as green, as fresh, and pleasant as is the eyes the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shinning sun after rain. —*Gen. Morgan Dix.*

He was one whom responsibility educated, and he showed himself more and more nearly equal to duty as year after year laid on him ever fresh burdens. God-given and God-led and sustained we must ever believe him. —*Wendell Phillips*

He was warm-hearted; he was generous; he was most truly, as he afterward said on a memorable occasion, "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

—*Alexander H. Stephens.*

TRIBUTES OF ILLINOIS STATESMEN.

SHELBY M. CULLOM.

Abraham Lincoln was the most illustrious man of the century in which he lived. He was the greatest man since the days of Washington. The future historian will place them side by side as the father and savior of their country. John Bright said that the life of Lincoln is written in imperishable characters in the history of the great American Republic. Lincoln never showed pride in his political elevation which was not based on the belief that he might benefit the people. His great desire was to benefit his people, the country, and mankind. The life of Lincoln belongs to the world. No State or nation can claim him as its own.

JAMES R. MANN.

When Lincoln was inaugurated the nation was without money or credit. The army was disrupted and the navy scattered and useless. Credit was restored, abundance of money was obtained, the army was reorganized and increased to vast proportions, a navy was built for effective use, and the most gigantic rebellion of all times defeated. Such results could be accomplished only by the rapid work of stupendous genius at the head of affairs. Tyrants or men of iron usually succeed best under such circumstances. But the loveliness of Lincoln's character is shown by the fact that at the end of the rebellion he was beloved by the people of the North and respected by the people in the rebellious South. As the years recede we can see better the loftiness of his grandeur, though we are still too close to realize fully the great height to which his soul reached in life. Washington and Lincoln! What nation can match them in all history?

HENRY S. BOUTELL.

Every one who visits Lincoln Park in Chicago is impressed by the simple majesty of its statue of Lincoln. The artist has succeeded in representing in imperishable bronze the strongest traits of Lincoln's character.

If you stand before it when a northeast storm is beating upon it, as the storms of political rage and hate beat upon President Lincoln during the years of his sorest trials, this statue will speak to you of his stern integrity, his rugged independence, his fearless patience, his iron fortitude, and through the roar of the storm you may hear again the calm, solemn words spoken by him on one of the darkest days of 1864:

"If it were not for my firm belief in an overruling providence it would be difficult for me, in the midst of such complications of affairs, to keep my reason on its seat."

But there is one phase of Lincoln's character that this statue expresses at all times, and this is Lincoln's deep sense of the sacredness of the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. To a class of law students in 1860 he said: "Resolve to be honest, at all events; and if in your judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer resolve to be honest without being a lawyer." And in the earnestness of purpose with which Lincoln discharged his duties as a private citizen and as a public officer he set an example of civic virtue. This is a slippant age. There is a growing tendency to treat bribery and corruption as the themes for jest instead of the objects of fierce denunciation. Lincoln's whole earnest life was a mighty protest against this indifferent, selfish, flippant view of the obligations of citizenship.

ALBERT J. HOPKINS.

In early manhood Lincoln was transplanted from Kentucky to Indiana and then over to the broad prairies of Illinois. His life until he located at Springfield differed little from that of any other early settler. And yet, as we go back over the years that intervened from the time that he first became a resident of Illinois to the time when he attracted the attention of his fellow-citizens and became the leader of a great political organization, we can see the weird influences that the limitless prairies of the State exerted over his sensitive nature. It was an influence that developed the better part of his manhood and made him a character difficult to understand. The notion is prevalent in this country, and especially in the cultured East, that no man can be great in all that the term implies without having received the benefit of a higher education. This is a great mistake. Lincoln would have been spoiled in the schools. The world was his university and the man whom he met in daily conflict in the courts were the professors who taught him. When Wendell Phillips learned of his nomination for President by the Republican party he inquired in indignant tones: "Who is this huckster and why is a county court lawyer selected over the distinguished statesman from New York?" And yet at that moment there is no doubt whatever he was the best qualified man for that station of often among all the candidates whose names were presented at that convention. Many of the most careful students of our political history believe that had any other man than Mr. Lincoln been elected President in 1860 the confederate would have been successful and the republic would have been destroyed.

If there be a destiny which controls the affairs of men, Lincoln certainly was a child of fortune. He represents, if not wonder-ful, career cannot be squared with any tests that are applied to the average man, he be ever so eminent. I sometimes think in contemplating the life and character of this remarkable man the Henry Watterson is correct when he asserts he was inspired.

GEORGE W. PRINGE.

Mr. Lincoln was easily the foremost character of the century in which he lived. Wherein was his greatness? It consisted of his knowledge of his [illegible] in him and his sympathy for his race. [illegible] was plain, he was honest, he was [illegible]able; he had enough education to meet every duty which he had to perform, but [illegible] above and beyond this he possessed the [illegible] which was approachable and [illegible] heart in sympathy with the humble [illegible] the lowly. Today, perhaps, we may have [illegible] who have greater head power, but none of them possesses his heart power. Head power [illegible] and sympathy is stronger than the power of intellect and education. Mr. Lincoln possessed in a preeminent degree common sense and heart power.

B. F. MARSH.

It was said by Solomon: "There is nothing new under the sun." And, applied to Abraham Lincoln, it is certainly true that nothing can be said of him that has not been said. The one characteristic of the man that has most impressed me was the simplicity of his life and the completeness with which he always recognized the full "Brotherhood of man."

THOMAS M. JETT.

The impress of Lincoln on our institutions will only pass away with them; there will not come a time while they live but that any American citizen would be glad to say more of him if by so doing more luster could be added to the name of this illustrious American. Lincoln was an American—no caste, no coat of arms, no entrance of birth. To pull him out of birth obscure, notwithstanding, it has pleased a respectable number of writers of his life to undertake the task of tracing his ancestry to the Earl of Lincoln, in the hope that they might weave into his life an escutcheon, thinking to add greatness to his name, but all failed, as they should.

JOSEPH G. CANNON.

For hundreds of years among English-speaking people those who have accomplished most in administration, in legislation, in literature, and in science have come from the great masses of the people and were of the people. In their leadership they have generally met with the greatest resistance while they were in action, frequently losing their lives in the performance of their duty and because of their leadership. Abraham Lincoln was of this class of men. In less than a generation there is not one individual to be found who does not hold in grateful remembrance the character and the services of this man of the people. In the generation of the race other great conquests will come and other great leaders will be found. The fidelity and achievements of Mr. Lincoln will strength-en all the people in these contests and be a power personal as an inspiration to those trusted with power to follow his example.

VESPASIAN WARNER.

Abraham Lincoln was purely an American and the greatest man of our time. With the opening of our history the edge is more clearly appears that he was created for his great mission. His life and training, his hardship and trials, were just the preparation of the man for the mighty tasks before him; and in the light of all he did and did it can hardly be doubted he anticipated the high place he was to take among men. His life is a romance, a sermon, an inspiration, and a meter of hope for all who may come after him under the impression he saved and strengthened. It rals the poorest, most humble, and obscure, that, under our institutions and principles, no door is hopelessly closed against honest worth, ambition, and endeavor.

BEN F. CALDWELL.

I now represent in Congress part of the district which Mr. Lincoln represented as a Whig from 1847 to 1849 in the Thirtieth Congress. I remember quite well that when a small boy I used to hear Mr. Lincoln speak in his law office, where I went with my father, who employed the firm of which Mr. Lincoln was a member as his attorney.

The next and every other time I saw saw Mr. Lincoln was in the heat of the campaign when, at a political gathering on the old State Fair grounds in the west part of the City of Springfield, I saw him carried by a wild and [illegible] crowd from a carriage to the speaker's platform.

The other [illegible] of Springfield, and for that matter of [illegible] entire County of Sangamon, still delight [illegible] supporters of party to repeat many of [illegible] Lincoln's greatest speeches and addresses and anecdotes. [illegible] Mr. Lincoln wrote his first [illegible] for to be seen in the Lincoln Museum [illegible] while only three blocks away [illegible] that hotel is the residence [illegible] Lincoln at the time of his [illegible].

While I am [illegible] and always have been, in affiliation [illegible] pleasure to say of my predecessor [illegible] that, regardless of politics and [illegible] also, the people of Sangamon [illegible] central Illinois who knew Mr. [illegible] him for his sociability [illegible] for the strength of his character [illegible] his sterling, every-day, plain, [illegible] honesty.

While there was [illegible] during the war of the rebellion, [illegible] North, the question of the propriety of that war, there is not now, I opine, a thinking individual in this nation who will not say that Abraham Lincoln, in his foresight and patriotism, was a worthy successor, in the Presidential line, of the "Father of His Country."

All now appreciate Mr. Lincoln's patriotic determination in engaging in a war which prevented the dissolution of this nation and gave us that which has grown to be the greatest republic the world has ever seen.

As a Democrat, it affords me great pleasure on this anniversary of the natal day of Abraham Lincoln to say, "All hail, savior of this great republic! Let North and South, East and West, join in proclaiming you in value of service to your country only second to George Washington."

GEORGE W. SMITH.

There has been much said about Mr. Lincoln, but nowhere is the man more fully revealed than in the words of his own address at the dedication of the Gettysburg battlefield as one of the silent cities for the nation's heroic dead. I would like to see these words, in permanent and artistic form, hung on the walls of every schoolroom throughout our land, and, better still, I could wish that in the mind of every boy and girl in our country these words could be instilled as a beautiful definection of a pure and lofty type of patriotism. Patriotism can never die while in the hearts of our people are cherished the names of Washington and Lincoln.

JOSEPH V. GRAFF.

It is a great fact which the people of the State of Illinois take to the fact that Abraham Lincoln grew to manhood and had his active career and development on the prairies of the State. Many of his biographers, in order to emphasize his marvelous growth morally and mentally from lowly surroundings to the Chief Magistracy, dwell upon the alleged fact that he was surrounded with Western frontier ignorance, immorality, and lawlessness. There was amidst that early frontier life a morality more of subsistence than of form, an intelligence not derived from books, and a sense of justice not born of the intricacies of legal literature that no doubt had a large part in laying the foundation for the development of the great heart, conscience, and mental grasp which made up the finally splendid statesmanship of Lincoln. These early surroundings, instead of being given as a contrast and evidence of the wondrous change in him, should be given as one of the prime causes of his final equipment.

JOHN M. PALMER.

In December, 1859, while in Springfield, I saw Abraham Lincoln for the first time, but under circumstances favorable to the formation of intimate personal or political relations between us. He came into the building occupied by the second branch of the Legislature, and made what was called in the language of the times a "Whig speech," in which he assailed the Democratic party with great severity. Mr. Lincoln surprised me by his ability and by his apparent logical frankness. He seemed to concede to his adversary almost everything he could claim, but I observed that he always found means to escape the effect even of his own concessions. His language was simple but exact. His statements were clear, and his arguments must have given great satisfaction to the party he represented. His speech was propositions with firmness, and supported them in the most effective manner.

It has been said by a great military writer that "a purely defensive war is rarely successful," and so it is with great intellectual contests. Mr. Lincoln entered upon the contest of 1858 without the full confidence of even his own supporters. I remember the trepidation of the anti-slavery party occasioned by his published declaration that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." It was expected by many of those who desired his success that he would fail in his contest with Douglas, and it was only after repeated essays that he had given of his power that he established himself in the full confidence of his supporters.

I think it is apparent in the early speeches of Mr. Lincoln that he felt the want of the full confidence of his party adherents, and I think it can be perceived that he grew bolder as he became conscious of his own power and received a larger portion of the confidence of his friends.

3/12/1900

Evansville Courier
2/13/60

Americans Across Nation Pay Homage to Lincoln

By The Associated Press

Americans across the nation paid homage Friday to the memory of Abraham Lincoln on the 151st anniversary of his birth. Speakers used the occasion to urge extreme caution in dealings with Russia.

In Springfield, Ill., Martin B. McKnealy of Newburgh, N.Y., national commander of the American Legion, led a pilgrimage of legionnaires to the tomb of the Civil War president.

He told the assemblage that Americans must hold to Lincoln's credo that man lives by ideals and not, as Karl Marx contended, by bread alone.

The legion chief said Americans follow a materialistic foreign aid program in fighting communism while the Communists employ "ever manner of idealistic argument to propagate their evil cause."

IN AKRON, O. Senator Kenneth B. Keating (R.-N.Y.) told a Lincoln Day meeting:

"Every Democrat with a voice is sending up verbal missiles directed at our defense program--but this cloud of popcorn cannot obscure a truth that Russia appreciates better than anybody: to attempt to destroy America is to invite self - destruction.

Judge Michael Musmanno of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court spoke in Hodgenville, Ky., birthplace of Lincoln. He told a Rotary Club meeting that there will be no war because the Soviets won't dare attack this country for fear of annihilation.

"I feel that Lincoln is telling us to banish fear from our hearts," he said. "If Lincoln were alive today, he would frown on the calamitous observations being made by some individuals about Russia's assured superiority over America in military prowess."

VISITING THE LOG cabin where Lincoln was born, the jurist said: "I was impressed to the point where I almost felt that if I didn't take hold of myself I might weep."

In Washington, Representative Fred Schweingel (R-Iowa), Poet Carl Sandburg and former Representative F. Jay Nimtz (R.-Ind.) were given new recognition for their interest in Lincoln. They received special medals Thursday night from the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission during the annual dinner of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia.

Schwengel is serving his second year as president of the group.

In Tokyo, Japan a portrait of Lincoln painted by President Eisenhower was presented to Japan. U. S. Ambassador Douglas MacArthur II delivered the painting to Ichiro Kiyose, speaker of the House of Representatives, at ceremonies attended by Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi.